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CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

Letter dated 12 January 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of a decision taken recently concerning the Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare.

Spain signed the Protocol on 17 June 1925 and deposited the corresponding instrument of ratification on 22 August 1929 with the French Government, the depositary of the Protocol. On that occasion, the Spanish Government entered the following reservation:

> "Declares as compulsory ipso facto and without special agreement in relation to any other Member or State accepting and executing the same obligation, that is to say, on condition of reciprocity, the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva, June 17, 1925."

Spain has no such weapons and its defence plans make no provision for their use.

Furthermore, in paragraph 8 of its Final Declaration, the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction stressed the importance that it attached to the withdrawal of such reservations.

Spain has also said that it intends to be one of the original signatories to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production,

Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, which was the subject of resolution 47/39 recently adopted by the General Assembly.

I am pleased to inform you that on 23 December 1992, the Spanish Government informed the depositary Government that it had decided to withdraw the reservation entered on 17 June 1925. Such withdrawal took effect on 28 December 1992.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly under the item entitled "Chemical and Bacteriological (Biological) Weapons".

(Signed) Juan Antonio YAÑEZ-BARNUEVO